

*Re: SRR - changes
Sidewalks / sidewalk plowing*

Roland Bartl

From: Bruce Stamski
Sent: Monday, July 03, 2006 1:54 PM
To: Roland Bartl
Cc: David Brown
Subject: FW: TOWN OF ACTO1 SIDEWALK PLOWING

Roland,

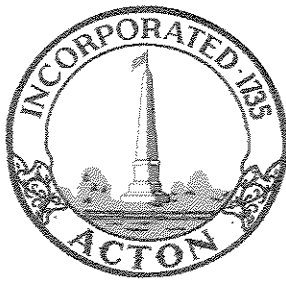
Attached is a memo from Dave Brown to John Murray regarding sidewalk plowing. It is my opinion that wherever sidewalks are constructed there should be a grass strip if possible. The grass strips are important for safety as well as snow plowing even if we do not always get to plow them.

As you are well aware, on most small subdivision streets the sidewalk is negotiated away for sidewalk construction on major streets. I think this is appropriate and would not want the Town to diminish its leverage in this negotiation process.

Bruce

From: David Brown
Sent: Monday, July 03, 2006 7:53 AM
To: Bruce Stamski
Subject: TOWN OF ACTO1 SIDEWALK PLOWING

7/3/2006



David J. Brown, Superintendent
Highway Department

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December 15, 2005

John,

The Highway Department plows snow from approximately 22 of the 35 miles of sidewalks within the town. The remaining 13 miles that are not plowed are widespread in approximately 80 locations about the town. It has been the policy of the department to plow the sidewalks that are along main streets and walks that lead directly or indirectly to the schools. It has also been our policy not to plow sidewalks within subdivisions or walks that lead nowhere, such as the sidewalk that was constructed in front of the mini-storage facility on North Main Street.

When a significant storm occurs, sidewalk plowing begins when road plowing commences if sufficient personnel are available. Sidewalk plow operators are assigned from the Municipal Properties and Cemetery Departments. All Highway personnel are needed to plow roads. Depending upon the severity of the storm, clearing the sidewalks takes from 5-6 hours for each pass. In a storm such as the one of December 9, 2005, a minimum of two passes is required. In some cases, if a storm deposits heavy wet snow, traditional methods of plowing with the Bombardier sidewalk tractors with plows will not work and the Bobcat snow blowers have to be sent out after the storm.

After a storm, the personnel from other departments are released to perform their departmental duties and the Highway Department personnel are assigned a variety of tasks to assure that we are ready for the next storm. First and foremost is to check out all vehicles and equipment and perform the necessary repairs. Secondly, we must replenish the materials required for deicing of streets. After that we are available to send men out to respond to calls regarding sidewalks, corners that are not wide enough or have limited sight distance, icing problems, clearing of the Quarry Road storage areas, signs that have been broken and the list goes on and on.

During this same period we are receiving calls from residents requesting that we widen the sidewalks that were plowed during the storm or that residents had cleared their driveways during the storm and the sidewalk plow had filled it in again. In any case, if we were to begin plowing all sidewalks in town, some areas would not be cleared for days, possibly weeks after the initial storm. Where the sidewalk snow blowers are required to do the clearing, the snow has to be blown onto resident's lawns. Many sidewalks are not wide enough for the snow blower and lawn damage occurs as well as damage to underground sprinkler systems. Many subdivision roads are not wide enough to accept the snow plowed from the walkway into the street, thus narrowing the driving lane. There are many reasons why we plow the sidewalks that are now plowed and many more reasons that it has been decided not to plow the others.